Receipt date: 11/16/2009 09439427 - GAU: 3637

CONSIDERED: /J.V.C./ (02/05/2010)

Docket No. RPC 0491 PUS;

67080-036

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPELLANT: Apps et al. ART UNIT: 3637

SERIAL NO.: 09/439,427 EXAMINER: Jose Chen

FILED: 11/15/1999

FOR: PLASTIC PALLET

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## **REPLY BRIEF**

Appellant files this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed September 16, 2009.

## **REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ARGUMENT**

The Examiner has mischaracterized Appellant's arguments and the Declaration of William P. Apps. Rather than Appellant repeating it entirely here, the Board is urged to read Mr. Apps' declaration. However, to summarize, there is a discernible difference between a polymer surface that has been "mechanically scuffed" (as claimed) and a polymer with a molded-in "knurled or roughened surface" (as in the Wyler reference). Further, to the extent that there may be some ambiguity in the description of "knurled or roughened" in the Wyler reference, this is resolved by the fact that the reinforcing bars of Wyler are fiberglass reinforced plastic. It would

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be undesirable to "mechanically scuff" fiberglass reinforced plastic because that would expose

and damage the fiberglass fibers. Therefore, the "knurled or roughened" surface of Wyler must

be molded-in, which as noted is discernible from "mechanically scuffing."

**CLOSING** 

For the reasons set forth above, the final rejection of all claims is improper and should be

reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

/John E. Carlson/

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Dated: November 16, 2009

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